



The Old Ironsides Report

Tuesday, May 11, 2004



Cavalry clears suspected insurgent headquarters

Story and photo by Pfc. Erik LeDrew, 122nd MPAD

DIWANUIYA, Iraq – It has been only a few weeks since the “Wolfpack” -- 3rd Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment -- started patrolling the southern Iraqi city of Diwaniya. They've been hard at work scattering the insurgent forces.

“I would say that enemy activity has decreased just from us being here,” said Capt. Jon Dunn, K Troop commander.

Patrolling the city has been the primary mission of the Wolfpack Squadron.

But, on May 4, the squadron launched a much larger scale mission: “Operation Wolfpack Crunch.”

“(The insurgents) had to figure as soon as we rolled into town that a mission like this one would happen,” Dunn said.

The mission's target was a series of buildings, located near an old downtown theater, which were reportedly being used by members of the “Muqtada's Militia” to plan and stage attacks against Coalition forces.

“Intelligence suggested that the building was being used by the militia's leadership to meet and plan attacks,” Dunn said.

Next to the targeted building was a building used as the local headquarters for the Dawa Islamic Party -- until they were evicted by the militia.

“We deliberately didn't attack the Dawa party building,” Dunn said. “We took great pains to spare it.”

At approximately 9:45 p.m. May 4, air assets fired on the targeted building.

“Right after that, we launched a tank and a scout platoon to form an inner cordon around the immediate city block of the headquarters,” he continued.

After the cordon was in place, the assault force moved in.

“We moved three platoons inside the compound's walls,” he said. “We had one platoon clear the Sadr headquarters building and the Dawa Party's headquarters building next to it.”

According to Dunn, a portion of the old theater was suspected of being used as a jail to hold Iraqis opposed to the militia.

“We had another platoon search the bombed-out theater next door and an area we suspected was being used as a jail,” he said. “We didn't find anyone in the jail. We found only one person at the headquarters and he was unarmed.”

“Once we were done clearing the building, we fired four tank main-gun rounds into the headquarters building to further destroy it so as to prevent its future use by the insurgents,” he said.

After destroying the building, a force was left to maintain security of the compound and guard it from looters and any militiamen that might return.

“The following morning,” Dunn continued, “we went to a girl's school across the street that was reportedly being used by the militia. We found a significant weapons cache there.”



An explosive ordnance disposal Soldier inspects and prepares ammunition seized during Operation Wolfpack Crunch for destruction. Soldiers from 3rd Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment cleared insurgent forces from several buildings in the city of Diwaniya May 4.

Neighborhood residents reported that the school had not been open for more than two weeks, Dunn said.

Soldiers discovered and seized AK-47 assault rifles, rocket-propelled grenades, mortar and tank rounds and small arms ammunition. The weapons and ammunition were destroyed.

“(An explosive ordnance disposal team) took all of the weapons that we found. They'll take those somewhere safe, put 'em in a pile, slap some C-4 (explosive) on them, and be done with them,” Dunn said.

“Our plan is to reopen the school as soon as possible,” he added.

The head of the Iraqi Tribal Council drove to Diwaniya from Baghdad later that day, Dunn said.

“He seemed happy and impressed that there was a great effort on our part to avoid injuring bystanders and destroying the surrounding buildings,” he said. “He knew that we could've destroyed the town but instead took great pains to minimize the collateral damage.”

The squadron will continue to maintain security around the buildings for several days, Dunn said.

“Now, we're simply maintaining security of the site to ensure the building doesn't get retaken by the Muqtada's militia or looted by some disheartened Iraqis,” he said. “We're working with (the Coalition Provisional Authority) to coordinate handing back this building to the Dawa Party. Once that's accomplished, we'll move on to another mission.”

NEWS...

Bush Praises Rumsfeld on War on Terror

WASHINGTON (AP)- President Bush issued a strong endorsement of embattled Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld on Monday, telling him after a meeting at the Pentagon, "You are doing a superb job."

With Rumsfeld at his side, Bush said his Cabinet officer was "courageously leading our nation in our war against terror...You are a strong secretary of defense and our nation owes you a debt of gratitude."

AP: Army Drops Brigade From Medal List

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - In the Army's 800th Military Police Brigade, tainted by the prison abuse scandal, 80 percent of soldiers slated to get the Army's Bronze Star medal have been told they will not receive them, says the brigade's commander.

"The vast majority of fine, outstanding soldiers in the brigade are paying dearly," Brig. Gen. Janis Karpinski told The Associated Press in an e-mail Sunday.

Red Cross Report Describes Abuse in Iraq

GENEVA (AP) - The Red Cross saw American officers mistreating Abu Ghraib prisoners by keeping them naked in total darkness in empty cells, and up to 90 percent of Iraqi detainees were arrested by mistake, according to a report disclosed Monday.

The report by the International Committee of the Red Cross supports its allegations that abuse of Iraqi prisoners by American soldiers was broad and "not individual acts" - contrary to President Bush's contention that the mistreatment "was the wrongdoing of a few."

Saudis Urge OPEC to Hike Oil Output

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) - Saudi oil minister Ali Naimi urged OPEC on Monday to raise its production ceiling by 1.5 million barrels a day when it meets on June 3.

The announcement by OPEC's largest producer comes as U.S. prices have risen to nearly \$40 a barrel and gasoline prices have been pushing higher with the peak summer driving season approaching. OPEC pumps about a third of the world's oil.

U.S. to Reopen Probe of Till Slaying

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Justice Department said Monday it is reopening the investigation into the 1955 murder of Emmett Till, a black teenager whose death while visiting Mississippi was an early catalyst for the civil rights movement.

Till was abducted from his uncle's home in Money, Miss., on Aug. 28, 1955. The mutilated body of the 14-year-old from Chicago was found by fishermen three days later in the Tallahatchie River.

Sports...

Woman Hit by Bat in Sausage Race Retiring

MILWAUKEE (AP) -- Wisconsin's most famous sausage has decided to retire, but she'll always relish the memories. Mandy Block, the woman in the Italian sausage costume hit with a bat by Pittsburgh Pirates first baseman Randall Simon last July, won't be in the Milwaukee Brewers' sausage races this summer.

She has decided to retire from competitive sausage racing at Miller Park to take psychology classes at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

"It's too bad," Block told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. "It kind of ended with a bang, though."

Block received attention after Simon hit her over the head with his bat as she passed by the visitors' dugout. Veronica Chandler, the hot dog who tripped over Block's fallen sausage, never ran again.

The whacking was broadcast worldwide, but Block brushed aside the controversy, accepting Simon's apology and declaring herself "just a sausage."

Simon was handcuffed by Milwaukee County sheriff's deputies after the game, taken to a police station and fined \$432 for disorderly conduct. Major League Baseball suspended him for three days.

Simon sent Block an autographed bat and apologized several times. When he returned to Miller Park later in the season, as a Chicago Cub, he bought a section of fans Italian sausages.

The Curacao Tourism Board offered its own apology, an all expenses-paid trip for Block and Chandler. Simon is from the small Caribbean island.

Block also was recognized by the National Hot Dog & Sausage Council with a certificate of bravery.

"I'm proud of it," Block said. "I didn't even know there was a hot dog council."

Thought for the day...

The Beacon

When a plane crashed in a cold, mountainous wilderness, some of the passenger survived, but were seriously injured. The frozen afternoon stretched toward an even more freezing night.

The situation seemed hopeless—until a rescue helicopter appeared, its searchlights illuminating the darkness. It spotted the wreckage, landed nearby and carried them off to safety.

"How did you know where we were?? An injured man asked. "The homing device on your aircraft," the rescuers told him. "It went off automatically when you went down. All we had to do was follow it."

Sometimes when life gets rough, and you feel trapped, hurt, lonely or discouraged; remember that it is your faith that serves as a heavenly beacon to 'guide' help from heaven just at the time you need it most.

Today in history...

May 11, 1944: Allies attack the Gustav line in drive for Rome

HISTORYCHANNEL.COM -- On this day in 1944, Allied forces begin a major assault on the Gustav Line, a German defensive line drawn across central Italy just south of Rome.

The Gustav Line represented a stubborn German defense, built by Field Marshal Albert Kesselring, that had to be broken before the Italian capital could be taken; the attack on the line was also part of a larger plan to force the Germans to commit as many troops to Italy as possible in order to make way for an Allied cross-Channel assault-what would become D-Day. With the Eighth Army's 1,000 guns, the Fifth Army's 600, and more than 3,000 aircraft, the Allied forces, which included British, French, Indian, Moroccan, and Polish corps, opened fire in a barrage of artillery from Cassino to the Mediterranean Sea. Despite the fact that the Allies outnumbered the Germans by a ratio of 3 to 1, it took seven days before the Gustav Line could be broken, with the Polish Corps occupying the famed Benedictine abbey of Monte Cassino. The Germans withdrew, to the Hitler Line, but that too was penetrated. The Allies would be in Rome by June 4.

May 11, 1987: BUTCHER OF LYON ON TRIAL

HISTORYCHANNEL.COM -- Klaus Barbie, the former Nazi Gestapo chief of German-occupied Lyon, France, goes on trial in Lyon more than four decades after the end of World War II. He was charged with 177 crimes against humanity.

As chief of Nazi Germany's secret police in Lyon, Barbie sent 7,500 French Jews and French Resistance partisans to concentration camps, and executed some 4,000 others. Among other atrocities, Barbie personally tortured and executed many of his prisoners. In 1943, he captured Jean Moulin, the leader of the French Resistance, and had him slowly beaten to death. In 1944, Barbie rounded up 44 young Jewish children and their seven teachers hiding in a boarding house in Izieu and deported them to the Auschwitz extermination camp. Of the 51, only one teacher survived. In August 1944, as the Germans prepared to retreat from Lyon, he organized one last deportation train that took hundreds of people to the death camps.

Barbie returned to Germany, and at the end of the war burned off his SS identification tattoo and assumed a new identity. With former SS officers, he engaged in underground anti-communist activity and in June 1947 surrendered himself to the U.S. Counter-Intelligence Corps (CIC) after the Americans offered him money and protection in exchange for his intelligence services. Barbie worked as a U.S. agent in Germany for two years, and the Americans shielded him from French prosecutors trying to track him down. In 1949, Barbie and his family were smuggled by the Americans to South America.

Assuming the name of Klaus Altmann, Barbie settled in Bolivia and continued his work as a U.S. agent. He became a successful businessman and advised the military regimes of Bolivia. In 1971, the oppressive dictator Hugo B nzer came to power, and Barbie helped him set up brutal internment camps for his many political opponents. During his 32 years in Bolivia, Barbie also served as an officer in the Bolivian secret police, participated in drug-running schemes, and founded a rightist death squad. He regularly traveled to Europe, and even visited France, where he had been tried in absentia in 1952 and 1954 for his war crimes and sentenced to death.

In 1972, the Nazi hunters Serge Klarsfeld and Beate Kunzel discovered Barbie's whereabouts in Bolivia, but B nzer refused to extradite him to France. In the early 1980s, a liberal Bolivian regime came to power and agreed to extradite Barbie in exchange for French aid. On January 19, 1983, Barbie was arrested, and on February 7 he arrived in France. The statute of limitations had expired on his in-absentia convictions from the 1950s; he would have to be tried again. The U.S. government formally apologized to France for its conduct in the Barbie case later that year.

Legal wrangling, especially between the groups representing his victims, delayed his trial for four years. Finally, on May 11, 1987, the "Butcher of Lyon," as he was known in France, went on trial for his crimes against humanity. In a courtroom twist unimaginable four decades earlier, Barbie was defended by three minority lawyers--an Asian, an African, and an Arab--who made the dramatic case that the French and the Jews were as guilty of crimes against humanity as Barbie or any other Nazi. Barbie's lawyers seemed more intent on putting France and Israel on trial than in proving their client's innocence, and on July 4, 1987, he was found guilty. For his crimes, the 73-year-old Barbie was sentenced to spend the rest of his life in prison, France's highest punishment. He died of cancer in a prison hospital in 1991.



1ST ARMORED DIVISION RETENTION

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM REDEPLOYMENT SUPPORT



TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE TAX FREE LUMP SUM DEPLOYMENT BONUS

EXAMPLES OF BONUS PAYMENTS:

	3YR REUP	4YR REUP	5YR REUP	6YR REUP
SPC W/3 YEARS	\$4317.00	\$6650.00	\$8547.00	\$10,000.00
SGT W/6 YEARS	\$2663.00	\$7457.00	\$9588.00	\$10,000.00
SSG W/8 YEARS	\$3145.00	\$7925.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00

*BONUS PAYMENTS VARY BASED UPON THE NUMBER OF YEARS REENLISTED FOR AND THE NUMBER OF MONTHS PRIOR TO ORIGINAL ETS SOLDIER REENLISTS. THESE FIGURES ARE BASED UPON A SOLDIER REENLISTING 6 MONTHS PRIOR TO ORIGINAL ETS DATE. SEE YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR TO FIND OUT HOW MUCH MONEY YOU ARE ENTITLED TO.

"STAY STRONG, STAY PROUD, STAY 1AD"

myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2004

As of: Monday, May 10, 2004 9:23:29 PM

Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
0:00	NBA FASTBREAK	HEADLINE NEWS	THE NEW DETECTIVES (TV14): - LETHAL ENCOUNTER	ESPNEWS: THE HOT LIST		0:00
0:30	THE HOT LIST	TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):		HEADLINE NEWS	HEADLINE NEWS	0:30
1:00	AROUND THE HORN		CONAN THE DESTROYER	TODAY	LESTER HOLT LIVE	1:00
1:30	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION	THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):				1:30
2:00	SPORTSCENTER				HEADLINE NEWS	2:00
2:30		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD			NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	2:30
3:00		THE HOT LIST	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - CHEW IF BY SEA	SESAME STREET	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT	3:00
3:30	TOTALLY NASCAR	NHL - PLAYOFFS - CONF. FINALS GM 2: PHILADELPHIA FLYERS @ TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - PIZZA DELIVERY/ HOME SWEET PINEAPPLE		CBS EVENING NEWS	3:30
4:00	NBA - PLAYOFFS - 2ND ROUND GM 3: INDIANA PACERS @ MIAMI HEAT		THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - I LOVE LISA	SAGWA	COUNTDOWN WITH KEITH OLBERMANN	4:00
4:30			THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - THE VISIT	WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		4:30
5:00			MONK (TVPG): - MR. MONK AND THE VERY, VERY OLD MAN	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	HANNITY & COLMES	5:00
6:00		BASEBALL TONIGHT	THE PRACTICE (TV14): - THE VERDICT	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):	THE NEWSHOUR	6:00
6:30	NBA - PLAYOFFS - 2ND ROUND GM 3: MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES @ SACRAMENTO KINGS					6:30
7:00		HEADLINE NEWS	INSIDE THE ACTOR'S STUDIO (TVPG): - MARTIN SHEEN	NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	BET NIGHTLY NEWS	7:00
7:30		ESPNEWS		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):	NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT	7:30
8:00		HEADLINE NEWS	RUMBLE IN THE BRONX	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	LARRY KING LIVE	8:00
8:25				GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):		8:25
8:30		HEADLINE NEWS				8:30
9:00	INSIDE THE NBA	SESAME STREET			NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN	9:00
9:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):		9:13
10:00	SPORTSCENTER	SAGWA	CINEMA SECRETS (TVG): - SUPER MODELS	ARTHUR (TVY): - IT'S A NO-BRAINER/ THE SHORE THING	PAULA ZAHN NOW	10:00
10:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):	EBERT & ROEPER AT THE MOVIES (TVPG):	DISNEY'S DOUG (TVY): - QUAILMAN VS. THE ANNOYING STUART		10:30
11:00	NHRA AUTO RACING - O'REILLY AUTO PARTS THUNDER VALLEY NATIONALS: FINAL ROUND	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - CHEW IF BY SEA	LIZZIE MCGUIRE (TVG): - MISADVENTURES OF BABYSITTING	NIGHTLINE	11:00
11:30			SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - PIZZA DELIVERY/ HOME SWEET PINEAPPLE	ALL THAT!	NAVY/MARINE CORPS NEWS	11:30
11:46		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):				11:46
12:00			THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - I LOVE LISA	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS	12:00
12:30			THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - THE VISIT	HEADLINE NEWS		12:30
12:35		GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):				12:35
12:52				PACIFIC REPORT		12:52
13:00	SPORTSCENTER		MONK (TVPG): - MR. MONK AND THE VERY, VERY OLD MAN	ESPNEWS	CNN DAYBREAK	13:00
13:17		GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):				13:17
13:30				HEADLINE NEWS		13:30
13:52				PACIFIC REPORT		13:52
14:00	MLB - CLEVELAND INDIANS @ BOSTON RED SOX	HEADLINE NEWS	THE PRACTICE (TV14): - THE VERDICT	7TH HEAVEN (TVPG): - THE KID OUT OF THE PICTURE	THE O'REILLY FACTOR	14:00
14:30		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):				14:30
15:00		TODAY	INSIDE THE ACTOR'S STUDIO (TVPG): - MARTIN SHEEN	RUSH HOUR 2	GOOD MORNING AMERICA	15:00
16:00			RUMBLE IN THE BRONX			16:00
17:00	SPORTSCENTER	ARTHUR (TVY): - IT'S A NO-BRAINER/ THE SHORE THING		HEADLINE NEWS	HEADLINE NEWS	17:00
17:22				PACIFIC REPORT		17:22
17:30		DISNEY'S DOUG (TVY): - QUAILMAN VS. THE ANNOYING STUART		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):	CHANNEL ONE	17:30
17:45					ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING	17:45
18:00	NBA FASTBREAK	LIZZIE MCGUIRE (TVG): - MISADVENTURES OF BABYSITTING	CINEMA SECRETS (TVG): - SUPER MODELS		THE EARLY SHOW	18:00
18:30	NHL 2NIGHT	ALL THAT!	EBERT & ROEPER AT THE MOVIES (TVPG):	THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):		18:30
19:00	SPORTSCENTER	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - CHEW IF BY SEA			19:00
19:30		HEADLINE NEWS	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - PIZZA DELIVERY/ HOME SWEET PINEAPPLE	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD		19:30
20:00	ESPNEWS	ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - I LOVE LISA	MEN IN BLACK	FOX NEWS LIVE	20:00
20:19	BASEBALL TONIGHT					20:19
20:30		HEADLINE NEWS	THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - THE VISIT			20:30
21:00	SPORTSCENTER	7TH HEAVEN (TVPG): - THE KID OUT OF THE PICTURE	MONK (TVPG): - MR. MONK AND THE VERY, VERY OLD MAN		FOX NEWS LIVE	21:00
22:00	NHL - PLAYOFFS - CONF. FINALS GM 2: PHILADELPHIA FLYERS @ TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING	RUSH HOUR 2	THE PRACTICE (TV14): - THE VERDICT	POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE	FOX NEWS LIVE	22:00
23:00			INSIDE THE ACTOR'S STUDIO (TVPG): - MARTIN SHEEN		HEADLINE NEWS	23:00
23:30					INSIDE POLITICS	23:30